

# Contemporary Political and Racial Issues

September 13 through October 4, 4 weeks (OLLI session I)

## Instructor

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## Email

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## Location & Hours

Zoom, Tuesdays 6:00-7:30pm

## General Information

### Course Description

We will explore some contemporary political and racial issues. We will not discuss politics per se, but will, instead, seek to understand some of the issues that shape the political and racial issues that emerge in the United States. We will also explore how institutional decisions and structures that seem perfunctory and benign can have an enormous impact on the direction of the country.

## Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Optional Readings
September 13	Electoral Rules	Divisive Nominating Mechanisms and Democratic Party Electoral Prospects Trading places: Effects of voting systems on multicandidate elections Measuring the Consequences of Delegate Selection Rules in Presidential Nominations The Context Matters: The Effects of Single-Member versus At-Large Districts on City Council Diversity Minority Representation under Cumulative and Limited Voting
September 20	Electoral Rules	<a href="#">Ranked Choice Voting linked to lower voter turnout</a> <a href="#">Ranked Choice Voting Sets the Stage for New Tactics</a> <a href="#">Ranked Choice Voting is Not the Solution</a>
September 27	US Census	Margo J. Anderson. 1988. <i>The American Census: A Social History</i> . Yale University Press
October 4	Redistricting	<a href="#">Human-centered redistricting automation in the age of AI</a> <a href="#">Technology-enabled Coin Flips for Judging Partisan Gerrymandering</a> <a href="#">Algorithms can foster a more democratic society</a>